



800 Boylston Street Boston, Massachusetts 02199

JOHN COPE-FLANAGAN

NSTAR Electric & Gas Corporation

Assistant General Counsel

Direct Dial: (617) 424-2103

Telecopier: (617) 424-2733

John_Cope-Flanagan@nstaronline.com

August 2, 2001

Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary
Department of Telecommunications and Energy
One South Station, 2nd Floor
Boston, Massachusetts 02110

Re: The Berkshire Gas Company, D.T.E. 01-56

Dear Secretary Cottrell:

Enclosed for filing, please find an original and nine (9) copies of the Petition of NSTAR Gas Company For Limited Participant Status. Also enclosed is a certificate of service. If you have any questions in this matter, please contact me.

Sincerely,

John Cope-Flanagan

Enclosures

cc: Andrew Kaplan, Hearing Officer
James Avery, Esq.
Joseph Rogers, Assistant Attorney General
Carol Wasserman, Assistant General Counsel, Division of Energy Resources
Robert Werlin, Esq.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY

The Berkshire Gas Company)

D.T.E. 01-56

**PETITION OF NSTAR GAS COMPANY FOR LIMITED PARTICIPANT
STATUS**

Pursuant to 220 C.M.R. 1.03, NSTAR Gas Company (“NSTAR Gas” or the “Company”) hereby petitions the Department of Telecommunications and Energy (the “Department”) to participate in the above-captioned proceeding as a Limited Participant. In support of its petition, NSTAR Gas states the following:

NSTAR Gas is a Massachusetts gas company as defined by G.L. c. 164, § 1 distributing gas in cities and towns located throughout eastern Massachusetts. NSTAR Gas’s principal place of business is

NSTAR Gas Company
800 Boylston Street, 17th Floor
Boston, MA 02199

2. The Berkshire Gas Company (“Berkshire”) filed a petition with the Department pursuant to G.L. c. 164, § 94, requesting a rate increase seeking additional annual revenues of \$4.6 million. The petition was docketed by the Department as D.T.E. 01-56.
3. The Department’s investigation in this proceeding may raise substantial ratemaking and related issues that are common to other gas companies in Massachusetts, including NSTAR Gas.

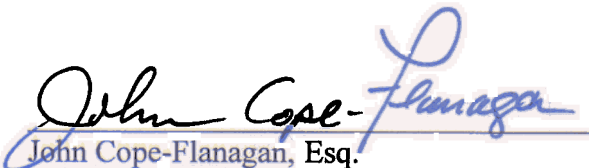
4. Good cause exists for allowing this Petition because: (1) the procedural conference has not yet been held; (2) NSTAR Gas's Limited Participant status will not jeopardize the Department's investigation in any material way; and (3) the Company has contacted counsel for Berkshire concerning its interest in this case and can represent that Berkshire does not object to NSTAR Gas being granted Limited Participant status.
- 5 Accordingly, NSTAR Gas seeks to participate in this proceeding as a Limited Participant with rights to receive copies of all pleadings, discovery requests and responses and to file brief(s) in accordance with the procedural schedule to be established by the Department.

WHEREFORE, for the reasons stated above, NSTAR Gas respectfully requests this Petition for Limited Participant status be granted.

Respectfully submitted,

NSTAR GAS

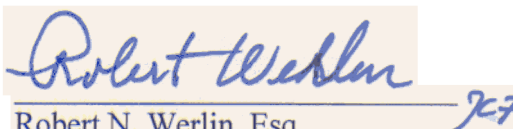
By its attorneys,



John Cope-Flanagan, Esq.

NSTAR Electric & Gas Corporation
800 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02199
(617) 424-2103 (telephone)
(617) 424-2733 (facsimile)

and



Robert N. Werlin, Esq. *27*
Keegan, Werlin & Pabian, LLP
21 Custom House Street
Boston, MA 02110
(617) 951-1400 (telephone)
(617) 951-1354 (facsimile)

Date: August 2, 2001

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY

The Berkshire Gas Company

D.T.E. 01-56

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I have this day served the foregoing document upon all parties of record in this proceeding in accordance with the requirements of 220 C.M.R. § 1.05 of the Department's Procedural Rules.

Dated at Boston, Massachusetts this 2nd day of August, 2001


John Cope-Flanagan

Counsel for:

NSTAR Gas Company
Legal Department, Floor 17
800 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02199-8003